

# Piedmont Technical College Course Syllabus

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## COURSE INFORMATION

**Course Prefix/Number:** PSC 201 (Section 80)

**Title:** American Government

**Responsible Division:** Arts and Sciences

**Last Day to Withdraw from this Course:** For the last date to withdraw from this course, consult the current *Student Calendar*.

### Course Description:

For course, credit hour, pre-requisite(s) and co-requisite(s) information, visit the Detailed Course Information page: <http://www.ptc.edu/courses/PSC201>.

### Textbook and Other Materials:

For textbook information and additional required and/or supplemental materials, visit the [college bookstore](http://www.ptc.edu/bookstore) (www.ptc.edu/bookstore).

### Proctored Examinations:

Proctored examinations for distance learning courses taken at non-PTC campuses may require a proctoring fee for each exam taken.

## COURSE POLICIES

Course policies are available online through the *Academic Catalog* and *Student Handbook*. Visit the [Course Policies page](http://www.ptc.edu/syllabus/policies) (www.ptc.edu/syllabus/policies) for a detailed list of important policies and more information.

## GRADE POLICY

Detailed grading policy information can be found on the [Grading Policy webpage](http://www.ptc.edu/grading-policy) (http://www.ptc.edu/grading-policy). Final grade appeal information is available in the [Academic Catalog](http://www.ptc.edu/catalog/) (http://www.ptc.edu/catalog/).

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

### **Accommodations for ADA:**

Information is available on the [Student Disability Services webpage](http://www.ptc.edu/ada) (<http://www.ptc.edu/ada>).

## **TITLE IX HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT INFORMATION**

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Piedmont Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities. Title IX protects students, employees, and applicants from sex discrimination in admissions and employment to include discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. More information regarding Title IX, including contact information for the Title IX coordinators, is available at [Title IX Harassment and Sexual Assault Information](https://www.ptc.edu/about/legal-disclosures/title-ix-harassment-and-sexual-assault-information) (<https://www.ptc.edu/about/legal-disclosures/title-ix-harassment-and-sexual-assault-information>).

## **RATIONALE**

### **Why do I need this course?**

PSC 201 introduces students to the American system of government. The focus of this course involves the U.S. Constitution and its impact on American culture. Students will study, evaluate, question and try to understand how this document has lived for over 200 years, shaping and molding our lives.

This course requires critical thinking and writing skills that will help provide the student with a solid knowledge base for future course work in fields that require extensive knowledge of the foundations of the American system of government and other social issues.

The REACH Act requires that students completing a baccalaureate degree from a South Carolina public college complete at least three semester credit hours that include discussion of and reading in their entirety the following documents: the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, five Federalist Papers, and at least one

document that is foundational to the African American Freedom struggle. PSC 201 and HIS 201 meet the requirements of the REACH Act and are recommended course options for students who intend to transfer to a South Carolina public college.

## **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

For program information including required courses, program learning outcomes, gainful employment information and advisement information, refer to the Academic Program webpage. Go to [Academics](http://www.ptc.edu/academics) (<http://www.ptc.edu/academics>), select your program, and then select Credentials Offered.

## **COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course and/or clinical, each student will be able to:

- Comprehend the origins and evolution of the American political system, with a focus on the growth of political institutions.
- Analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems.
- Recognize and assume one's responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.

## **GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES**

## **Piedmont Technical College General Education Competencies for All Graduates:**

*This course may address one or more of the following General Education Competencies (assessment will be stated when applicable):*

### **Communicate effectively.**

Assessment:

This competency will be assessed through class assignments, projects, and exam essay questions that demonstrate the student's ability to write in Standard American English.

### **Apply mathematical skills appropriate to an occupation.**

Assessment:

N/A

### **Employ effective processes for resolving problems and making decisions.**

Assessment:

This competency will be assessed using class assignments, projects and lecture topics that demonstrate the ability to use critical thinking skills to uncover why certain events occurred and whether another approach would have improved a political or historical outcome.

### **Demonstrate the basic computer skills necessary to function in a technological world.**

Assessment:

This competency will be assessed using assignments that incorporate the use of Internet resources.

*To validate proficiency in the general education competencies, students in some programs will be tested using Work Keys.*